

Generous sense of brotherhood and consan-  
guinity amongst classes, which characterized  
the times we are desirous of emulating, and  
in principle uniting.

We have better proof of this than our own  
speculations, or conjectures, for while we have  
letters such as these, we have others from  
perfect strangers to us; nay, our first sub-  
scriber was a dignitary of the Irish church,  
who wrote promptly, on the appearance of the  
precursor number, and every day brings to us  
similar kind, and—as we profess the ad-  
vocacy of the workman's cause as much as any  
other—grateful evidences of approbation from  
the titled and the learned.

W. M. is quite right. Who can he sur-  
prised at the diversion into channels of a dis-  
tempered notoriety, the exercise of talents  
such as those he gives instances of, when the  
honest courses were frowned upon, or at least  
looked at with indifference? Human beings  
have implanted in them an ambition, which  
would not have been, unless it were intended  
to be exercised,—but how exercised?—Tem-  
pered with a truly rational sense of our voca-  
tion and character, a looking beyond ourselves  
instead of within ourselves, except for the  
purpose of comparing our littleness with that  
which is without; ambition, thus directed and  
thus exercised, will lead to right ends, and  
ennoble, rather than degrade, those who are  
born with or imbibe its ascendant impulses.

The practice which our correspondent speaks  
of as general, in the selection of foremen,  
is not so bad as he would have it inferred, or  
rather as his letter would cause to be inferred,  
for we collect from the admission of his own  
experience, that it was otherwise in a shop  
wherein he himself worked; but we do know  
instances of the prevalence of the strange no-  
tion that an overseer of work must be a man  
of diving—and we will not judge the matter  
any more than our correspondent, of "bully-  
ing propensities." This is an error, however,  
that has its correction in the very same prin-  
ciple that we prescribe to all classes—proper  
self-respect. Neither master, foreman, nor  
workman, when they know their true position,  
will degrade themselves into the character of  
tyrant of place, which the task-master, the  
bully, or the cringing undoubtedly are;—one  
of the others, if not both, for slavery and  
slavery are final opposites from the same root.

Self-respect, good friends, is that signet  
of protection: it will save us from self-degrada-  
tion, and have done that, it will protect us  
from the degradation. If any such could be at-  
tempted towards us, by others.

Our correspondent will perceive, if he reads  
the precursor number, that politics—party  
politics—at least—are flung out from our discus-  
sion, as they are from our inclination. Party  
views and passions are the bane of social hap-  
piness, and we seek to administer the antidote.  
But what may be termed politics will in  
all probability frequently engage us. Suppose  
to-morrow we were proposed to take off the duty  
on foreign-made furniture and joinery? We  
believe it is 30 per cent. does any one consider  
it would become us to be silent, to look on in  
apathy at the threatened destruction of 160,000  
carpenters and joiners and cabinet-makers,  
by the sudden free importation of German labour  
products? Certainly not; and had we been on  
duty before the passing of the last tariff, we  
should have discussed its provisions, and done  
our best to avert the evil which we understand  
has fallen heavily in many instances; but the  
most, previously, as we are sorry to record,  
upon a class who could almost least of all  
afford to bear it,—we mean the poor labourers.  
We have heard of serious privations that these  
poor men have been exposed to, in the town of  
Hull, and we dare say the case is much the  
same in other of our timber-importing districts.  
So far we shall and must be politicians—but  
no farther—party we ought to be—the business  
of many for the gain of the few.

As we have an opportunity of reading  
The Builder, with the appearance of the second  
number, "W. H." writes to affirm that success is  
sure to be attendant on the exertions of the pro-  
prietors, if they undertake the advocacy of the  
physical and mental interests of the labouring por-  
tion of Builders.

Superior minds are wanted to direct the vast  
amount of intellectual energy which exists among  
the working class, to combat the different systems  
which are being advanced to remove the universal  
poverty, distress, and degradation, to which the  
builders are among the principal leaders. I need

only mention the name of A. Fleming (the editor  
of the *New Moral World*), who obtained such  
notoriety as leader of the deputation which waited  
on the present ministers relative to the Ten Hours  
Factory Bill, who a few years back was a journeymen  
painter, and Armstrong, the charlatan, to show  
that if the ability, real, and perseverance which  
characterized what bright penmen they might  
become, it is then my conviction that W. H.  
the establishment of your journal, a means might be  
adopted by which the working classes might com-  
mune with the elevated and enlightened portion of  
our class, much of the tyranny which now exists  
would be removed. The poor have few advo-  
cates, and when an appeal is made through the un-  
professional (as far as regards building) press,  
from ignorance of the necessary details, in gen-  
eral decide against them. But in a Builder's  
journal, should the necessity of an impartial deci-  
sion between master and man arise, an opportunity  
is offered for the different statements, and there is  
no doubt (if the truth is maintained on both sides)  
of an advantageous result.

I have spoken of tyranny existing. It may be  
argued that it is necessary to enable the masters to  
fulfil their engagements and contracts, with the  
slovenly and drunken workmen they are obliged to  
employ. But all are not so, and it is only by the  
diffusing of practical knowledge in an engaging  
form, with their interests blended, that their igno-  
rance can be removed, and when that is done,  
drunkenness will soon follow.

The general practice of selecting foremen of bul-  
lying propensities causes these remarks. It is not  
my purpose to individualise, because there are many  
exceptions; a shop I worked in about five years is  
one; but where they are employed, talent, sobriety,  
and industry are not of much value in that shop;  
consequently we want a class magazine, for all par-  
ties to express their feelings, to receive and impart  
instruction, that we may progress with more unity  
of feeling than has been the case for years past.  
I should advise you to have nothing to do with  
politics, for the differences of opinion are so great.  
Those who are politically inclined can easily refer  
to the papers suited to their taste at the different  
coffee-houses. Would not the division into sections,  
in which consecutive papers on Drawing, Mechanics,  
Architecture, Literature, &c., particularly notices  
of works commenced or completed would appear,  
be most advantageous? For if gentlemen with talent  
will condescend to be our instructors, and endeav-  
our to improve us in the means of getting a living  
less precarious than at present, the character of  
our class would be amended. Let not our ignorance  
be the cause of our being punished for that very  
ignorance which it is our desire to remove. If gen-  
tlemen will do this, they will receive the aspirations  
of gratitude from many who wish to wipe away the  
degrading epithets which are so often cast upon them.

"Lambeth."

"W. M."

"January 12th, 1843."

We deem the following letter as one of  
great importance. An exhibition room so  
arranged, and architectural subjects displayed  
as suggested by "W. H." would, so far from  
failing in attraction, be the very magnet of  
our exhibitions. What could compete with  
it? An architectural hall, or rather a series  
of halls, is what we require, and we are not  
at all astonished that architecture should have  
been treated in our other exhibitions as it has  
been. It was indeed morally impossible that  
it could have been otherwise. How could the  
less contain the greater?

A grand suite of architectural exhibition  
rooms would enable us to assert a sovereign  
claim to public attention; if drawings, models,  
specimens, and the relics of our art were col-  
lected and arranged in an appropriate manner,  
where, let us ask, would be the museum or  
exhibition to be named in the same day with  
this? Surely the architects, who build  
academies, halls and colleges, for all  
classes, know how to build one of such for  
themselves. This is a subject upon which we  
dare not trust ourselves to dilate—its vastness  
and consequence is almost overpowering; but  
we predict that this is its beginning. Many  
thanks to "W. H."

"W. H."—I very much wish you would call attention  
to the very recently accommodation afforded to archi-  
tectural drawings at the Royal Academy, and sug-  
gest that the profession ought now to establish a  
separate annual exhibition of their own, upon an  
adequate scale, and not confined to merely eleva-  
tions and perspective views, but for drawings and  
subjects of every kind belonging to architecture,  
decoration, furniture, &c. &c. At the time the  
Royal Academy was founded, a single moderate-  
sized exhibition of the kind was the grand object  
of its exhibitions; but architecture is now in a very

different position among us. The profession has  
greatly increased in numbers, and the public are  
beginning to take more and more interest every day  
in architecture and the study of it. Formerly there  
was not a single architectural journal of any sort,  
and very rarely a paper upon any architectural  
topic in other periodicals; whereas at present, pub-  
lications of the latter class often contain architec-  
tural articles of considerable interest—although Mr.  
Gwill would find make it appear that being any-  
mous, they must one and all be worthless, and fur-  
ther, holds in contempt all non-professional writers  
on the subject, be they anonymous ones or not,—  
all such scribbles as Thos. Hope, Whewell, and  
Willis.

"Surely architecture can now afford to be quite  
independent of the Royal Academy. I do not  
mean to be in hostility to it, but amicably so, in like  
manner as the 'Institute of Architects' now is.  
Even could adequate accommodation in regard to  
space for architectural drawings be provided by the  
Royal Academy, they would always be in the eyes of  
the public but a merely supplementary part of the  
general exhibition; consequently attract compara-  
tively very little attention or notice. Very different  
would the case be in an exhibition exclusively archi-  
tectural, because then there would be nothing else  
to attend to, and people would have time for delib-  
erate inspection of such drawings, which now  
seldom obtain from the majority of visitors more  
than a hurried glance, begrudgingly bestowed on  
them in proceeding to or returning from the 'pic-  
tures.' But then you will perhaps say: the public  
would not go to a merely architectural exhibition;  
but I think that the novelty of one would prove  
a sufficient attraction at first, and by the time that  
had worn off, people would go out of a real liking  
for it, or because other people went, and among  
them those who are looked up to as persons of  
superior taste.

Were there an exhibition of the kind suggested,  
and should there ever be one, instead of the walls  
being covered, there should be no more than two  
lines of drawings placed above the level of the eye,  
so that every one of them might be distinctly seen.  
Were there such an exhibition, it would cause  
architecture to be talked of, and would excite more  
interest in regard to it than exists at present. The  
exhibition of the designs for the new Houses of  
Parliament was of material service in this way; it  
forced architecture upon public attention in a  
degree till then unprecedented; partly, it must be  
confessed, on account of the particular importance  
of the occasion, but if not precisely of the same  
kind, nearly equal interest would, no doubt, be  
excited by the establishment of an annual architec-  
tural exhibition at all events, it is worth while  
making the experiment, not with a view to pecuniary  
profit—for if it barely paid its expenses, it  
would be sufficient—but because it would show that  
architects were disposed to exert themselves, and to  
encourage in the public a taste for architectural  
study.—I remain, &c."

"W. H."

Our correspondent, signing himself "An  
ardent Admirer of Architecture, and all that  
pertaineth thereto, and a Student of the Royal  
Academy," is thanked for his communications;  
and in reply to his several suggestions, we  
have to state the following:—

1st. As to excluding all advertisements un-  
connected with architecture and building, we  
refer him to what we said on this head in our  
last number; and again to so much of our  
leader of to-day as bears upon the question of  
the support which we have a right to claim  
from that class of advertisers who directly ap-  
peal to the builders. Our correspondent says,  
and says justly, "If the building community  
cannot furnish advertisements enough to sup-  
port a publication for their own immediate and  
mutual advantage, the spirited task which you  
have undertaken had, I am certain, better have  
been abandoned under the slightest delay." Now,  
there is no "if" in the matter: the building  
community, and those who cater for them;  
can, and will support it; but there are some,  
as we have said, very slow to move, who will  
wait awhile, they say—and we shall see them  
dropping in by degrees; as they find the paper  
getting established independently of any aid  
from them. We have therefore to be particu-  
larly thankful to those advertising friends of  
another class who give their unreserved sup-  
port at this crisis, and the builders ought to  
feel with us equally thankful, and to mark  
their sense of it in the proper manner.

As to binding up the magazine part distinct  
from advertisements, he will see we have at-  
tended to that.

He objects to the extracts which we gave in  
the way of light reading, but he must bear in  
mind that all are not probably disposed like  
himself or ourselves, and will object to over-